AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Kindly amend the paragraph [0027] as follows:

As shown in Fig. 2, the bottom surface of the first table 24(1) has grooves 32(1) slidably engaged with the first rails 20(1) so as to be slidable along the first rails 20(1). The first table 24(1) has, on its top surface 34(1), second rails 20(2) perpendicular to the first rails 20(1). The first table 24 further has, on its top surface 34(1), a plate ~~22(2)~~ 22(1) parallel to the first rails 20(1).

Kindly amend the paragraph [0031] as follows:

The X-axis direction positioning means 16 moves and positions objects in the ~~Y-axis~~ X-axis direction. The X-axis direction positioning means 16 has a second table 24(2), a second joint 26(2), a second clutch 28(2), and a second forcibly-moving means 30(2). The second joint 26(2) and the second clutch 28(2) are built into the second table 24(2), thus preventing an operator from accidentally pinching his/her fingers or the like by these components. This arrangement of mechanical structure enhances the safety and appearance of the positioning stage 10. Moreover, the X-axis direction positioning means 16 has the second joint 26(2) and the second clutch 28(2) compactly integrated in the table 24(2), making it easy to reduce contamination from this mechanism.

Kindly amend the paragraph [0039] as follows:

Similarly, the knob 46(2) is rotated to move the second table 24(2) in the X-axis direction relative to the first table 24(1). This operation will be explained in detail in conjunction with Fig. 5. The pressing members 54(2) of the clutch 28(2)

clamp the plate 22(2) to secure the joint 26(2) to the first table 24(1). Meanwhile, since the male screw 44(2) has been threaded in the female screw 42(2), turning the knob 46(2) to rotate the male screw 44(2) causes the male screw 44(2) to travel by ~~DX1~~ X1 in the X-axis direction relative to the joint 26(2). Thus, the male screw 44(2) travels by ~~DX1~~ X1 relative to the first table 24(1). The male screw 44(2) is connected to the second table 24(2) such that it is rotatable but cannot be moved to axial direction, so that the second table 24(2) moves together with the male screw 44(2) by such first distance X1 relative to the first table 24(1). In this manner, the knobs 46(1) and 46(2) are rotated to fine adjust an object position on the second table 24(2) in the XY directions, permitting the object to be accurately positioned. The positioning accuracy of this stage is within the range from about 1.0 mm to about 0.1 mm. In the free travel mode, the object can be moved to the vicinity of the target position, so that the travel of fine adjusting for positioning the object by means of the knobs 46(1) and 46(2) may be from about -10 mm to about +10 mm.

Kindly amend the paragraph [0042] as follows:

For example, the positioning stage 10 may be provided with a line sensor for measuring a travel distance ~~DY1~~ Y1 of the first joint 26(1) in relation to the base 12 in the free travel mode, a line sensor for measuring a travel distance ~~DY2~~ Y2of the first table 24(1) in relation to the first joint 26(1) in the fine adjusting mode, a line sensor for measuring a travel distance ~~DX1~~ X1of the second joint 26(2) in relation to the first table 24(1) in the free travel mode, and a line sensor for measuring a travel distance ~~DX2~~ X2of the second table 24(2) in relation to the second joint 26(2) in the fine adjusting mode. Referring to Fig. 6, the tables 24(1) and 24(2) positioned at their origins are indicated by solid lines, the tables 24(1) and 24(2) are indicated by dashed lines after they are moved from their origins in the free travel mode, and the tables 24(1) and 24(2) are indicated by the two-dot

chain lines after they are moved in the fine adjusting mode. Coordinates (X, Y) after positioning are represented by ~~(DX1+DX2, DY1+DY2)~~ (X1+X2, Y1+Y2).

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